

WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Bulletin



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<https://dalkeith.mgfl.net>



HEAD TEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parent/Carer,

Since our last bulletin we have been coursing all pupils from S2 to S5 into their new courses for next session. Thank you to all parents who took part in coursing meetings - we hope this was informative and supportive. If there are any pupils who have yet to make course choices, please ensure course choice sheets are returned to the school office as soon as possible. Links to our coursing information can be found [here](#).

It was fantastic to meet so many parents at the senior phase parent consultation to discuss attainment. Pupils have been proactive in showing me their study timetables and revision techniques for each subject, since these meetings. Supported study continues to be well attended. I would encourage all pupils sitting exams to ensure they attend these sessions with revision topics they feel they need extra time to consolidate their learning. There is roughly 8 weeks until the exam season starts and so now is the time to get good routines in place to support study at home.

The Scottish Government attainment analysis tool, Insight, has now been updated with the 2025 leavers data. A summary of our school's leaver attainment is below:

- Numeracy and Literacy data is significantly above the virtual and national comparators.
- Attainment for all data illustrates positive strides in our lowest 20% and middle 60% of leavers.
- Positive destinations data is 94.27%, in line with last year's figures.
- Attainment versus deprivation data illustrates some improvements based on a five year attainment trend of school data. We continue to build on this area of school improvement.

HEAD TEACHER'S UPDATE

I have been busy recruiting over the past few weeks. Please see a staffing update below:

New appointments are:

Gordon Knox, Teacher of English, fixed term, started on 23/02/26

Beverly Brining, PT Support for Learning and Inclusion, starting 23/03/26

Emma Morrison, Teacher of Business, starting 24/04/26

2 x Teacher of Maths (start date to be confirmed)

1 x Teacher of English, fixed term (start date to be confirmed)

1 x Teacher of Modern Studies, fixed term (start date to be confirmed)

I will share names of the staff above once pre-employment checks have been completed.

We sadly said farewell to Lorna Howie, teacher of English before the February holiday. Lorna worked at Dalkeith for 22 years, and has undoubtedly supported our pupils in achieving their best in English throughout this time. I wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life!

Enjoy the rest of the bulletin

Take care

Emma Ormerod

And the winners were **Ms Douglas** and **Ms Macpherson**.



But the biggest question remained... Were they Traitors—or Faithfuls?

We can now reveal they were... FAITHFULS!

So who were the Traitors behind the chaos? The original Traitors were **Mr Carvel**, **Ms Dunion** and **Ms Frame**, with **Mr Holligan** recruited along the way.



Thank you to everyone who embraced the drama, the deception and the dash for shields.

Here's to even more intrigue, suspicion and betrayal next year!

The Claudettes

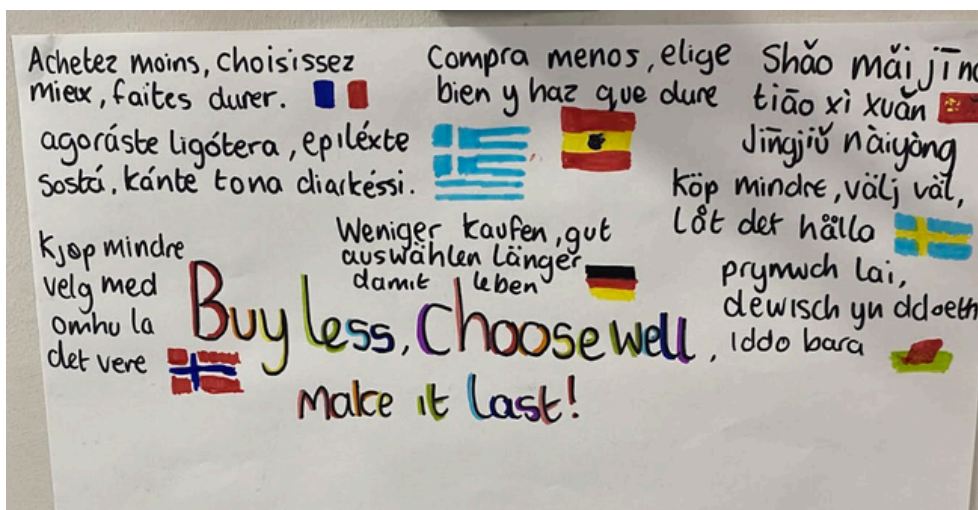
LANGUAGES WEEK SCOTLAND 2ND-6TH FEBRUARY.

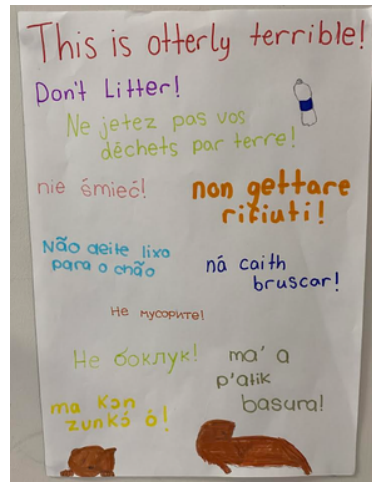
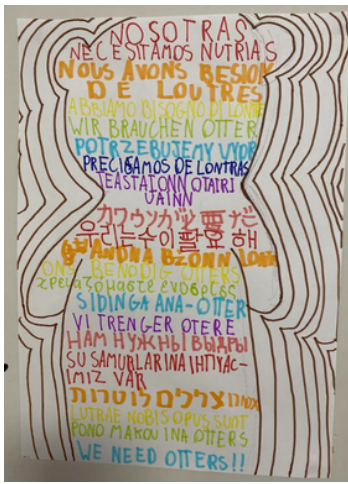
To celebrate Languages Week Scotland, the Languages Department ran a second whole-school Duolingo Competition.

Around 50 pupils took part and languages included Japanese, Arabic, Italian, French, Dutch and many more. The winning pupils were **3rd - Isla Madhra, Orla Doyle and Andrea Yeung**, **2nd Emily Jost** and **1st - Bradley Gallacher S2**. Well done to all involved.



In language lessons there were a variety of different activities such as creating a statement to describe our multicultural Scotland today, spinning the wheel to pick a random country and finding out about all the languages spoken there and interesting cultural traditions and watching short films on important world issues and communicating the main message in different languages.





These pieces of work were also posted on the Languages Scotland blog which shows the high standard of work from Dalkeith High pupils.

As part of our Languages Week Scotland celebrations, we were delighted to welcome the Japanese Studies Department from the University of Edinburgh for a special Japanese taster session for S1-S3 pupils.

During the workshop, pupils learned how to introduce themselves in Japanese, practicing traditional greetings and polite bowing. They also explored aspects of Japanese culture and customs, gaining a deeper appreciation of life in Japan.

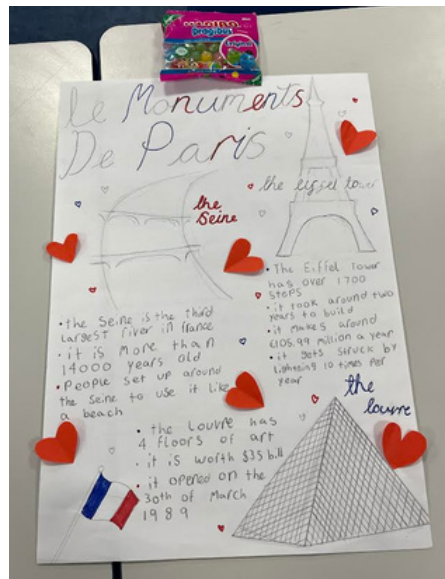
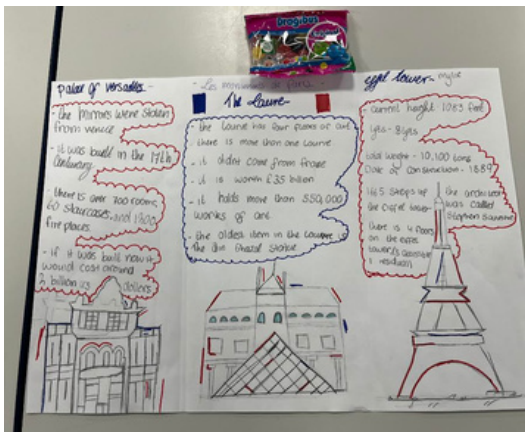
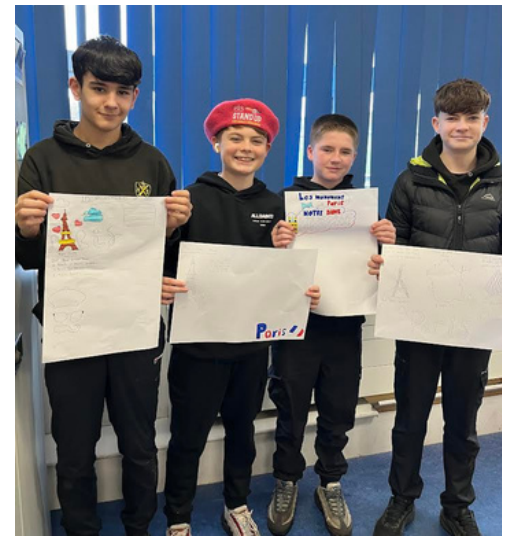
To round off the session, everyone had the opportunity to get creative by trying their hand at origami, carefully crafting a paper horse in celebration of the year of the Horse. It was a fantastic, hands-on experience that brought language and culture to life for our pupils!



Our S2 French have also been busy learning about Paris and developing their cultural knowledge.

Well done to Sonia Milewska on winning the first place on the poster competition, followed by Mylie Redpath (second place) and Maggie Kerr (third place).

Pictures of the winning posters are included below, as well as pupils enjoying their learning wearing the French beret!



Mrs Irving's February Linguists of the Month

- 1L1 - Nate
- 1B2 - Katie
- 2B2 - Katie
- 2M2 - Martha
- 2L1 - Rachel
- 2D1 - Cameron
- 2D2 - Isla
- 3I French - Orla
- 3H French - Mia
- 3F Spanish - Maesyn



Well done. All of these pupils try their best, come to lessons prepared and are developing into very able linguists.

DHS LIBRARY

Book of the Month – February

February's book of the month is *The Overthinkers' Club - Happy List* by Nat Luurtsema.

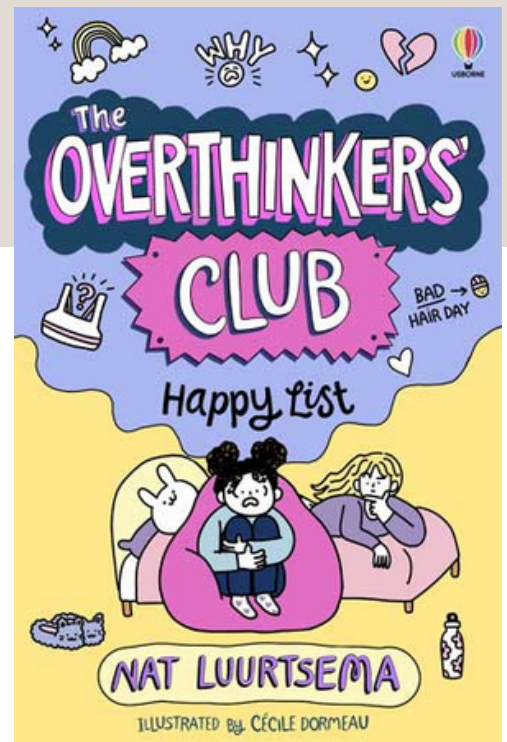
Birdie has a complicated life. she lives with her Dad and her brother Finn. Birdie's Mum left them to travel the world as a climate activist but keeps in contact via facetime.

Birdie is an overthinker and is worried about moving in with her Dad's girlfriend's family.

The Overthinkers Club: Happy List is written in the style of a diary with illustrations. drawn by Birdie throughout the book. Birdie's anxieties range from being a teenager and making friends to the health of her pet hamster.

This is a tender and in places funny book that looks at the complexities of being a teenager, growing up and overthinking it all.

Happy Reading!



The Library recently held a Book Fair over where pupils were able to purchase books from authors such as Karen McManus and Liz Pichon.

The pupils from Dalkeith and St David's High School really enjoyed the opportunity to use their £1 World Book Day tokens to purchase the books and bought over £600 worth of books and received £200 of free books for the school library. A big thank you to everyone that contributed to this amazing total.

CAREERS ADVISER

Skills
Development
Scotland

Hi folks,

Many of our leavers will be hoping to apply for apprenticeships and vacancies - now is the time to get started!

You will need a CV to contact employers and a covering letter - if you don't have one, use the CV tool on www.myworldofwork.co.uk which also has a job search tool as well.

Useful websites to check for vacancies are:

- www.apprenticeships.scot
- [Midlothian Council - CLLE \(Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability\)](#)

As well as my career blog on Google Classrooms - the code is hyx3o5k

Get into the habit of checking these sites on a weekly basis - you have missed some good opportunities already if you have not been checking.

Colleges are now recruiting for their August start courses - our local colleges can be found at:

- www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk
- www.borderscollege.ac.uk
- www.nac.ac.uk
- www.sruc.ac.uk

Any queries about your career plans - please contact me at barbara.moir@sds.co.uk

I will be working over the Summer break so don't be surprised if I get in touch to ask how you are getting on as I try to follow up all our leavers to make sure you have got a job/ college place or training course sorted out.

SAAS ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

We will be hosting online sessions which will provide guidance on all aspects of SAAS funding schemes & offer advice on how to make a successful application to obtain funding. These sessions can be attended by students and their parents and carers. They will be hosted via MS Teams and will run from 4 March to 25 March. Attendees can book their free ticket [here](#).

These interactive workshops will:

- explain the funding available from SAAS for those planning to undertake higher education courses (HNC/HND/Degree courses); and
- provide information on the repayment of student loans; and
- have direct access to a funding awareness advisor who can assist you with the formal submission of your SAAS Application.

VACCINATIONS

TEENAGE BOOSTER

Teenage Booster vaccinations are scheduled to take place on 10th March 2026. Consent packs have been issued to all pupils in S3 and any pupils that have missed the vaccination previously.

If you have still to return the completed consent form please can this be returned to the school office ASAP.



HPV

HPV vaccinations are scheduled for April 2026. HPV consent packs will be issued to S1's throughout this week

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Midlothian Futures Fair

Wednesday 25th March 2026

12-6pm at One Dalkeith



An information event for young people with ASN and their parent/carers about life after school

Please join us to meet with universal support services and social work funded supports. Find out about college, day opportunities, social groups, money matters, leisure, carer support, support for care experienced young people and lots more...

Please scan the QR code for directions



Contact Leigh Thomson, Practice Development Worker – Transition, with any queries:

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